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Owner Flies from Texas to Maryland to be Reunited with Lost Dog After One Year of Separation

Derwood, MD – On January 28th, 2016, Alicia McIntosh got on a plane in Houston, Texas, flew to BWI airport, got a rental car, and drove to the Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center (MCASAC) in Derwood, Maryland. After one year, she was going to be reunited with her dog Corey.

On January 19th, a Montgomery County Animal Services officer found Corey, a shih tzu, in front of a Safeway in Bethesda and brought him to MCASAC. When shelter staff scanned him for a microchip, not only did they find one but they were able to trace it back to an owner – Alicia McIntosh.

When staff contacted Alicia, she explained that Corey had lived with her in Washington D.C. until he escaped from their back yard in the fall of 2014. Alicia tirelessly searched the area, including nearby shelters, but was unable to locate Corey. Last October, Alicia relocated to Texas and thought she would never see her dog again. Against her family's recommendations, she kept all of Corey's paperwork just in case. When Alicia received the email letting her know Corey had been found, she said, "[I] started crying. I called everyone I knew."

The shelter extended the typical 5-day "stray wait" period that gives owners time to claim lost pets before they are made available for adoption. This extension allowed Alicia time to book a flight to Maryland in order to claim Corey – a journey made all the more difficult by the blizzard that enveloped the region on January 22nd.

MCASAC staff watched with anticipation as Corey walked into the room, jumped into Alicia's arms and licked her face. Alicia, near tears, explained that she had dog clothes for Corey in the car and that a "doggie cake" would be waiting for him back in Texas.

"After hearing Ms. McIntosh's story, we were determined to get Corey home," said Animal Care Supervisor, Spencer Kelly. "Ms. McIntosh is a special person to come all this way for her family member and Corey is one lucky dog. Days like today are the reason I come to work."

It appears that during the year of separation, Corey somehow made his way to a home in Maryland and was being cared for until he managed to escape again and was found in the Safeway parking lot. Though certainly disappointed, Corey's temporary family understood that his original owners would be contacted.

The YouTube video of the Alicia and Corey's reunion has already had over 1,000 views: <https://goo.gl/AMvNzC>

About the Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center:

The Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center (MCASAC), operated by the Department of Police, Animal Services Division, provides high-standard sheltering and care to the homeless, abused, and neglected animals in our community and ensures the safety and welfare of the county's citizens. We are the County's only open-admission, municipal shelter. Through adoptions, education, outreach, and more, MCASAC serves as a critical community resource to promote and advocate for responsible pet care. Animal Services Officers are on duty seven days a week to investigate citizen complaints and respond to animal emergencies 24 hours a day. For more information, visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/asd

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Media contacts:

Katherine Zenzano, Community Outreach Coordinator
Email: katherine.zenzano@montgomerycountymd.gov
Phone: 240-773-5656 (o), 703-585-9558 (c)